

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001544/26
to the Commission
Ștefan Mușoiu (S&D)
(15 April 2026)**

Subject: Need for a further coordinated response at EU level

Following the soaring rise in energy prices on the back of geopolitical tensions and the disruption of global oil and gas supplies, there is an increasingly acute need for a further coordinated pan-EU response from the Commission to cushion the effects of the conflict in the Middle East and the blocking of the free movement of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The Member States hardest hit by this fresh turmoil are those whose economies are more vulnerable, such as Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. The impact of these increases in fuel prices is nevertheless already being felt by Member States with much stronger economies, whose industries too have fallen foul of this form of coercion as well as the excessive growth in imports at dumping prices, the cost differentials generated by EU environmental and social standards and the overwhelming proliferation of unfair practices.

Against this somewhat complex backdrop, could the Commission please provide an assessment of the medium- and long-term impact of this crisis on energy poverty and the risk of a social emergency in less-developed Member States, and state whether it plans to introduce a mechanism to protect those segments of society most exposed and impacted.

Submitted: 15.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(23 June 2026)**

As a dynamic response to the impacts of the Middle East crisis on households and industry, the Commission published the AccelerateEU Communication ⁽¹⁾ with concrete actions to support Member States in implementing timely, targeted and temporary measures, including actions to provide immediate relief to persons in vulnerable situations.

On 13 May 2026, the Commission presented a catalogue ⁽²⁾ of replicable measures, which have proven efficient in protecting consumers and advancing the energy transition, including achieving immediate energy savings, system efficiency gains, replacing fossil fuels and advancing electrification.

To further strengthen consumer protection and empowerment, the Commission adopted the Citizens Energy Package ⁽³⁾ and published targeted recommendations to help improve the situation of consumers regarding their rights, e.g., to create energy communities, share energy, protect vulnerable consumers from disconnections.

To empower vulnerable groups, the Commission published recently the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy ⁽⁴⁾ to help people access essential protection and services, including energy, and contribute to poverty eradication by 2050. It will also update its 2023 recommendation on energy poverty later in 2026.

⁽¹⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/accelerateeu-energy-union-affordable-and-secure-energy-through-accelerated-action_en.

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/accelerateeu-strengthen-eu-energy-resilience/accelerateeu-catalogue_en.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/energy-consumers-and-prosumers/citizens-energy-package_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-new-measures-fight-poverty-and-improve-lives-persons-disabilities-2026-05-06_en.